AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (original) A method of determining the palatability of a food, food stuff or veterinary biologic to an animal comprising:

obtaining at least one animal; and,

administering a discrimination learning procedure to an animal selected from said at least one animal wherein said discrimination learning procedure comprises using a food, food stuff or veterinary biologic.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising utilizing at least one stimulus preference test comprising:

    (a)   presenting said animal with at least one distinct stimulus wherein each of said at least one distinct stimulus is associated with an identical reward;

    (b)   permitting said animal to choose from said at least one distinct stimulus, wherein choice of any one stimulus results in said identical reward;

    (c)   recording a preferred stimulus of said animal wherein said preferred stimulus is most frequently chosen by said animal or chosen at a greater response rate or chosen first; and,

    (d)   recording a non-preferred stimulus of said animal wherein said non-preferred stimulus is least frequently chosen by said animal or chosen at a slower response rate or chosen secondly or later.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising utilizing at least one association session comprising:

(a) presenting said animal with at least one stimulus associated with said food, food stuff or veterinary biologic; and,

(b) permitting said animal to choose from said at least one stimulus wherein any choice results in a reward of said food, food stuff or veterinary biologic associated with said any choice.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said administering said discrimination learning procedure comprises:

(a) presenting said animal with a preferred stimulus and a plurality of non-preferred stimuli;

(b) permitting said animal to choose at least one stimulus selected from said preferred stimulus and said plurality of non-preferred stimuli wherein choice of any one of said non-preferred stimuli results in a reward of said food, food stuff or veterinary biologic associated with a corresponding said any one of said non-preferred stimulus and choice of a preferred stimulus results in no reward;

(c) recording said at least one stimulus chosen by said animal; and,

(d) repeating steps (a) through (c) to obtain discrimination conditioning of said animal.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising establishing a preferred food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic of said animal as said food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic associated

with a stimulus most frequently chosen or chosen most rapidly or chosen first or an association learned most rapidly by said animal.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 further comprising establishing a rank order of preferred food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic of said animal as an ordered list of decreasing preference of said food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic associated with a stimulus most frequently chosen or chosen most rapidly or chosen first or an association learned most rapidly by said animal.

7. (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising establishing a non-preferred food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic of said animal as said food, food stuff or veterinary biologic associated with a stimulus least frequently chosen or chosen more slowly or chosen following a stimulus associated with said preferred food, food stuff or veterinary biologic or an association learned less rapidly.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 further comprising establishing a rank order of non-preferred food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic of said animal as an ordered list of increasing preference of said food, food stuff or veterinary biologic associated with a stimulus least frequently chosen or chosen more slowly or chosen following a stimulus associated with said preferred food, food stuff or veterinary biologic or an association learned less rapidly.

9. (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising utilizing a stabilization phase wherein steps (a) to (d) are repeated at least once in one session for at least one consecutive sessions.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising utilizing a reversal phase comprising:

(a) presenting said animal with a preferred stimulus and a plurality of non-preferred stimuli;

(b) permitting said animal to choose a stimulus wherein choice of a non-preferred stimulus previously associated with said preferred food, food stuff or veterinary biologic results in no reward and choice of said preferred stimulus results in a reward of said food, a food stuff, or veterinary biologic not previously associated with said preferred stimulus;

(c) recording a selected stimulus chosen by said animal or a latency to respond or an order of responses;

(d) repeating steps (a) through (c) to obtain discrimination conditioning of said animal.

11. (original) The method of claim 10 further comprising establishing a preferred food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic of said animal as said food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic associated with a stimulus most frequently chosen by said animal or chosen most rapidly or chosen first or an association learned most rapidly.

12. (original) The method of claim 10 further comprising establishing a non-preferred food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic of said animal as said food, food stuff or veterinary biologic associated with a stimulus least frequently chosen or chosen more slowly or chosen following a stimulus associated with said preferred food, food stuff or veterinary biologic or an association learned less rapidly.

13. (withdrawn) A system for determining the palatability of a food, food stuff or veterinary biologic to an animal comprising:
means for obtaining at least one animal; and,
means for administering a discrimination learning procedure to an animal selected from said at least one animal wherein said discrimination learning procedure comprises means for using a food, food stuff or veterinary biologic.

14. (withdrawn) The system of claim 13 further comprising means for utilizing at least one stimulus preference test comprising:

(a)   means for presenting said animal with at least one distinct stimulus wherein each of said at least one distinct stimulus is associated with an identical reward;

(b)   means for permitting said animal to choose from said at least one distinct stimulus, wherein choice of any one stimulus results in said identical reward;

(c)   means for recording a preferred stimulus of said animal wherein said preferred stimulus is most frequently chosen by said animal or chosen at a greater response rate or chosen first; and,

(d)   means for recording a non-preferred stimulus of said animal wherein said non-preferred stimulus is least frequently chosen by said animal or chosen at a slower response rate or chosen secondly or later.

15. (withdrawn) The system of claim 13 further comprising means for utilizing at least one association session comprising:

(a) means for presenting said animal with at least one stimulus associated with said food, food stuff or veterinary biologic; and,

(b) means for permitting said animal to choose from said at least one stimulus wherein any choice results in a reward of said food, food stuff or veterinary biologic associated with said any choice.

16.   (withdrawn) The system of claim 13 wherein said means for administering said discrimination learning procedure comprises:

(a)   means for presenting said animal with a preferred stimulus and a plurality of non-preferred stimuli;

(b)   means for permitting said animal to choose at least one stimulus selected from said preferred stimulus and said plurality of non-preferred stimuli wherein choice of any one of said non-preferred stimuli results in a reward of said food, food stuff or veterinary biologic associated with a corresponding said any one of said non-preferred stimulus and choice of a preferred stimulus results in no reward;

(c)   means for recording said at least one stimulus chosen by said animal.

17. (withdrawn) The system of claim 16 further comprising means for establishing a preferred food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic of said animal as said food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic associated with a stimulus most frequently chosen or chosen most rapidly or chosen first or an association learned most rapidly by said animal.

18. (withdrawn) The system of claim 17 further comprising means for establishing a rank order of preferred food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic of said animal as an ordered list of decreasing preference of said food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic associated with a stimulus most frequently chosen or chosen most rapidly or chosen first or an association learned most rapidly by said animal.

19. (withdrawn) The system of claim 16 further comprising means for establishing a non-preferred food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic of said animal as said food, food stuff or veterinary biologic associated with a stimulus least frequently chosen or chosen more slowly or chosen following a stimulus associated with said preferred food, food stuff or veterinary biologic or an association learned less rapidly.

20. (withdrawn) The system of claim 19 further comprising means for establishing a rank order of non-preferred food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic of said animal as an ordered list of increasing preference of said food, food stuff or veterinary biologic associated with a stimulus least frequently chosen or chosen more slowly or chosen following a stimulus associated with said preferred food, food stuff or veterinary biologic or an association learned less rapidly.

21. (withdrawn) The system of claim 16 further comprising means for utilizing a stabilization phase.

22. (withdrawn) The system of claim 13 further comprising means for utilizing a reversal phase comprising:

  (a) means for presenting said animal with a preferred stimulus and a plurality of non-preferred stimuli;

  (b) means for permitting said animal to choose a stimulus wherein choice of a non-preferred stimulus previously associated with said preferred food, food stuff or veterinary biologic results in no reward and choice of said preferred stimulus results in a reward of said food, a food stuff, or veterinary biologic not previously associated with said preferred stimulus;

  (c) means for recording a selected stimulus chosen by said animal or a latency to respond or an order of responses.

23. (withdrawn) The system of claim 22 further comprising means for establishing a preferred food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic of said animal as said food, foodstuff, or veterinary

biologic associated with a stimulus most frequently chosen by said animal or chosen most rapidly or chosen first or an association learned most rapidly.

24. (withdrawn) The system of claim 22 further comprising means for establishing a non-preferred food, foodstuff, or veterinary biologic of said animal as said food, food stuff or veterinary biologic associated with a stimulus least frequently chosen or chosen more slowly or chosen following a stimulus associated with said preferred food, food stuff or veterinary biologic or an association learned less rapidly.

25. (withdrawn) A product created by process of determining the palatability of a food, food stuff or veterinary biologic to an animal comprising:
a composition comprising an enhanced palatability or more preferable to an animal wherein said composition is selected in accordance with the method of claim 1.

26. (withdrawn) A product created by process of determining the palatability of a food, food stuff or veterinary biologic to an animal comprising:
a composition comprising a reduced palatability or less preferable to an animal wherein said composition is selected in accordance with the method of claim 1.